Application No:: 10/696,609 Amendment Dated: July 26, 2004

In Reply to Office Action Dated: July 2, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the aforementioned Office Action, claims 1-3, 5, 12 and 21-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,466,148 to Jones. Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,022,361 to Devlin. Claims 14, 15 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,111,545 to Krozal. And, Claims 14, 15 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,916,087 to Owens. The Examiner indicated that claims 4, 6-11, 16-20 and 25 contained allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, by this Amendment original independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of original claims 1 and 6 is presented in new claim 26; the subject matter of original claims 1 and 7 is presented in new claim 27; the subject matter of original claims 1 and 8 is presented in new claim 28; the subject matter of original claims 1 and 9 is presented in new claim 29; the subject matter of original claims 1 and 9 is presented in new claim 29; the subject matter of original claims 1, 12 and 16 is presented in new claim 30; the subject matter of original claims 1, 12 and 20 is presented in new claim 31; and the subject matter of original claims 1 and 25 is presented in new claim 32. Claims 4, 6-9, 16, 20 and 25 have been canceled.

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In view of the foregoing, the instant application is believed to be in condition for allowance and, therefore, early issuance thereof is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would be beneficial to advance prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 26, 2004

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